

It's Happening, Thanks to GGAS

by Arthur Feinstein

The sign in the photo says it all. A marsh is being restored in San Leandro Bay thanks to a 10-year-old lawsuit initiated by Golden Gate Audubon with help from the Sierra Club, the Save San Francisco Bay Association and CALM (Citizens for Alameda's Last Marshlands).

In 1986 the Port of Oakland began filling wetlands on Oakland Airport property. GGAS went to court and stopped the destruction.

Later the Port attempted to fill other wetlands located at a site called the Distribution Center. The Distribution Center is located next to the Oakland Airport and contiguous to the Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline Park. Once again GGAS stepped in, with the help of our lawyers Alan Waltner, Roy

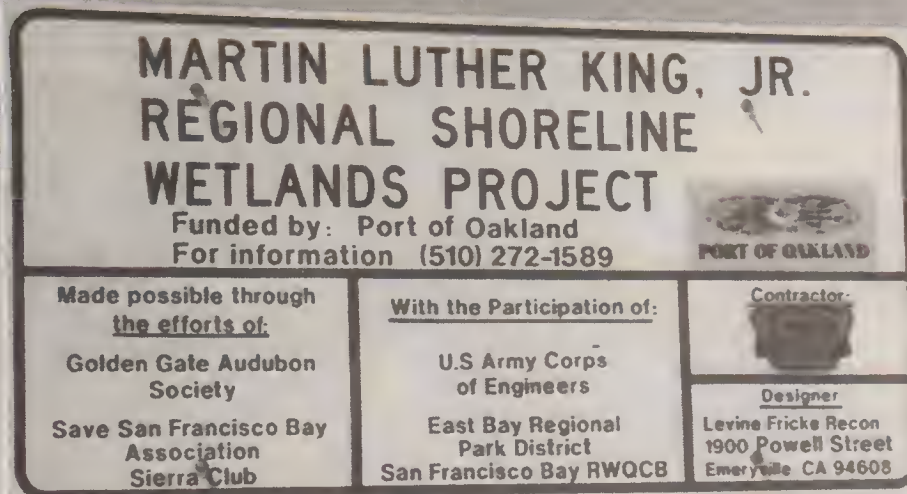
Gorman and Zach Cowan, and again stopped the wetland destruction.

After another eight years of litigation, during which time we won three court decisions, the Port and GGAS settled the lawsuit. The Port agreed to spend \$2.5 million on restoring 71.5 acres of wetlands on the Distribution Center site to make up for those wetlands it had destroyed. It would then deed those restored wetlands to the East Bay Regional Park District to be maintained as wetlands in perpetuity.

This was a great victory for Bay Area wetlands, and it was possible only because our GGAS members were willing to support a very costly lawsuit. Your contributions over those eight years made all this possible.

So what will we be creating? First, we'll restore almost 31 acres of endangered California Clapper Rail breeding habitat. The Clapper Rail already lives in the adjacent Arrowhead Marsh, but it cannot breed there because the marsh is too low and their nests are drowned at high tides. Our new wetland will have higher elevation tidal marshes designed for Clapper Rail breeding habitat.

Continued on page 5





Field Trips Calendar

GAS field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

Saturday, October 4 San Mateo Coast

Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of San Gregorio State Beach (near the junction of Highways 1 and 84). We will bird at Pescadero in the morning and Ano Nuevo in the afternoon. We will look for migrants and shorebirds in the mudflats, including Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, tattlers and knots. We may also see Marbled Murrelets at Ano Nuevo. Bring lunch and liquids and be prepared for cool weather. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. (\$)*

Sunday, October 5 STRYBING ARBORETUM

(See Announcement and details in the September GULL.) Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this half-day trip. Beginners and all others welcome. Leader: Allan Ridley (415) 566-3241.

Wednesday, October 8 MINI-TRIP TO EAST BAY SHORELINE

Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the large dirt parking lot next to the Seabreeze Market at the intersection of Interstate 80 and University in Berkeley. Take Interstate 80 to the University exit and go west towards the marina. We will bird the nearby mudflats for shorebirds, then probably caravan to Point Isabel and other shoreline spots. Lunch optional. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Saturday, October 11 SNOWY PLOVERS AT OCEAN BEACH

Meet at the Cliff House at 9 a.m. After checking Seal Rock we will walk along Ocean Beach and watch for Snowy Plovers and other shorebirds. We will also look for loons, shearwaters, terns, jaegers, and other birds of the ocean. Pack a lunch and wear shoes appropriate for walking along the ocean's edge. The round trip will be about five miles, but it is easy to return to the Cliff House by way of the #18 bus for those who would like a shorter walk. Leader: Alan Hopkins. (415) 664-0983.

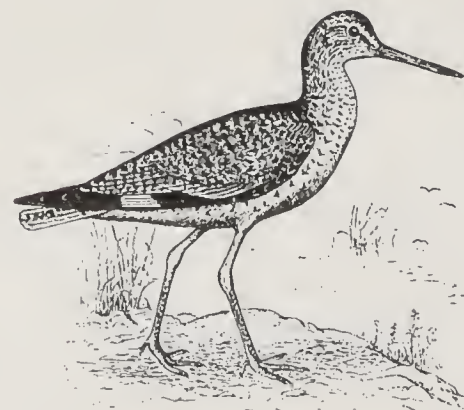
Saturday, October 18 TENTH ANNUAL POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE ALL- DAY FALL BIRDING BLITZ

(Joint activity: GGAS & National Park Service.) Meet at

8:00 a.m. at Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot (about 3.5 miles south of Olema on Highway 1). We will bird the Five Brooks Pond area, Limantour Spit, Drake's Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip. This fast-paced trip should produce approximately 100 species. Bring food, water, and layered clothing for variable weather. Leaders: Leon Abrams (415) 453-9980 (work), (510) 843-4107 (home); and Cathy Purchis (510) 865-9482. (*)

Sunday, October 19 HAWK HILL

Hawk Hill in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is the premier hawk watch location in the West. Each fall, about 20,000 hawks fly over or near Hawk Hill, and over 200 volunteers engage in hawk counting, banding, telemetry and other research programs. Enjoy the majesty of the various species of hawks that migrate through the Bay Area as Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) Director Allen Fish discusses the



mission and work of GGRO and points out the finer details of raptor identification. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the middle platform of Hawk Hill (Battery 129). From Berkeley, take the Richmond bridge to 101 south. Exit at the last entrance before the Golden Gate Bridge. Turn left at the stop sign, then right into the GGNRA. You will be on Conzelman Road. Drive up to the top of the hill (at which point the road is one way downhill), turn around and park. Walk up to Hawk Hill via the gated fire road. From San Francisco, take the first exit after the Golden Gate Bridge, which is Alexander. Turn left and drive under the freeway. Turn left, then right into the GGNRA. You will be on Conzelman Road. See Berkeley directions. Rain cancels, and meeting place may be changed due to fog. Watch for signs at the access gate. Bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, hat. Layered clothing advisable. Trip will end at about 2:00 p.m. Leader: Allen Fish (415) 331-0730.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS, MARIN COUNTY

Meet at 8:00 a.m. for this half-day trip to see a variety of ducks, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors and anything else that may show up. Take 101 north and exit at Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Road. Go east on Smith Ranch Road to the end. Just before the county park, take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds. Drive past the headquarters, con-

tinuing to the parking lot on the left. Meet at the parking lot. Leader: Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001. (*)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 STRYBING ARBORETUM

Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular 1st Sunday of the month trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several micro-habitats attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leader: Allan Ridley (415) 566-3241.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
MINI-TRIP TO AQUATIC
PARK, BERKELEY,** and other nearby areas. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the northwest corner of Spenger's Restaurant parking lot (4th and Hearst Streets) to carpool. We should see returning shorebirds and migratory ducks. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.


PLAN AHEAD! – SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, DECEMBER 6 & 7.

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked with a (*). See below. Problems, etc.: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or if you are interested in leading a trip, call Lillian Fujii (510) 236-4167, Field Trips Committee Chair.

BULLETIN

Napa will Play Host to National Audubon

The National Audubon Society will be holding its Board of Directors meeting at the Silverado Resort in Napa from December 4 through 7. For more information, please call Betsy Hax at (212) 979-3156.

While there, the Society will present the 1997 Audubon Medal Award to **Hazel Wolf** at the Gala Dinner Celebration, Saturday evening, December 6 also at the Silverado Resort. Contact Jennifer Lopez at (212) 979-3049 to find out more. 


Christmas Bird Count Dates

Mark Your Calendars Now!!

The San Francisco Count will be on Tuesday, December 30.

The Oakland Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 21.

25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act

Please join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and to begin our campaign to save our state's water. We'll gather on October 12th, exact time and location to be announced. For more information call Jenna Olsen at (415) 977-5728. 



Mid-August found us driving north of Monterey on the highway by Moss Landing. "TURN HERE!" I squealed as I saw a sign for Elkhorn Slough. Ever-obedient (HA!), my husband Dick responded without batting an eye or causing an accident. He's used to this birder's curt, last-minute instructions for eye-balling any avian wonder along the way to anywhere. The time of year wasn't optimum but I didn't want to miss the chance to see one of northern California's top birding spots. Stretching 7 miles inland, Elkhorn was once diked, drained and was a dairy farm. The state purchased the farm, flooded the fields and hoped that all the creatures native to the wetlands could be coaxed back. It's working! Near the visitor's center you may pick from several easy hikes. It was quiet. Both Great and Snowy egrets were stalking a pond filled with some ubiquitous mallards while two Black-necked Stilts squawked over territorial rights. I could only imagine wintering shorebirds by the thousands

feeding at low tide. Next time, during migration, I think a canoe birding experience would be neat. At an overlook on a single day, 116 species were sighted. Wish I knew what month that occurred!

As we drove north on Elkhorn Road, a finger of water next to the road was teeming with phalaropes doing what they do best: spinning in circles and bobbing like tiny corks. What a treat! We only see these birds in migration as they fly from their breeding grounds in the Arctic to their wintering areas off South America. Robin-sized, these birds appeared to be juvenile Red-necked Phalaropes (formerly called Northern Phalaropes). None were remotely like the red or brown-tinged adults in breeding plumage. They sported the dark eye "liner" that gives them a sweet look as they tootled around the shallows. During their swift flight, a white wing stripe and whitish stripes on the back were revealed along with dark central tail coverts.

There are 3 members of this

distinctive member of the sandpiper family. Phalaropes were once considered a separate family. The name phalarope comes from a Greek word meaning "coot footed," referring to their partly webbed, lobed feet, minatures of coots' feet (although not the same shade of green). The Red and the more common Red-necked Phalaropes are mainly pelagic, spending most of their time feeding and resting at sea in large flocks. They have salt glands to rid their bodies of salt, which is transferred from the bloodstream to these special glands. Then this concentrated solution drains via ducts through nostrils. As it collects on their beak's tips, the birds shake their heads in that characteristic way you may have noticed among pelagic birds. Since these birds have air pockets in their belly feathers for warmth, they are particularly bouyant and literally cannot dive for food. So they hang out around large sea mammals, probably benefiting from the small animal life churned up. Seafarers nicknamed phalaropes "whalebirds" as a result of this practice. Whether at sea or in tide pools they spin rapidly in tight circles, stirring up small crustaceans, insects, mollusks, jellyfish and plankton. As they spin they stab the water rapidly with their sharp black bills. Some bored observer actually counted 60 spins per minute for one bird which jabbed the water on each revolution. Makes me dizzy to think about it!

The third member of the group, Wilson's Phalarope, is the

"Kids by the Bay"

We would like to apologize for accidentally omitting in September's *Gull* the title of the film shown at the last member meeting. "**Kids by the Bay**," directed by Judy Irving and Christopher Beaver, is a children's educational film concerning kid's involvement in improving the environment. Geared for children in grades K-5, the 18 minute film can be ordered by calling The Video Project at 1-800-475-2638.





The GULL Kid's Page

Hey Kids!

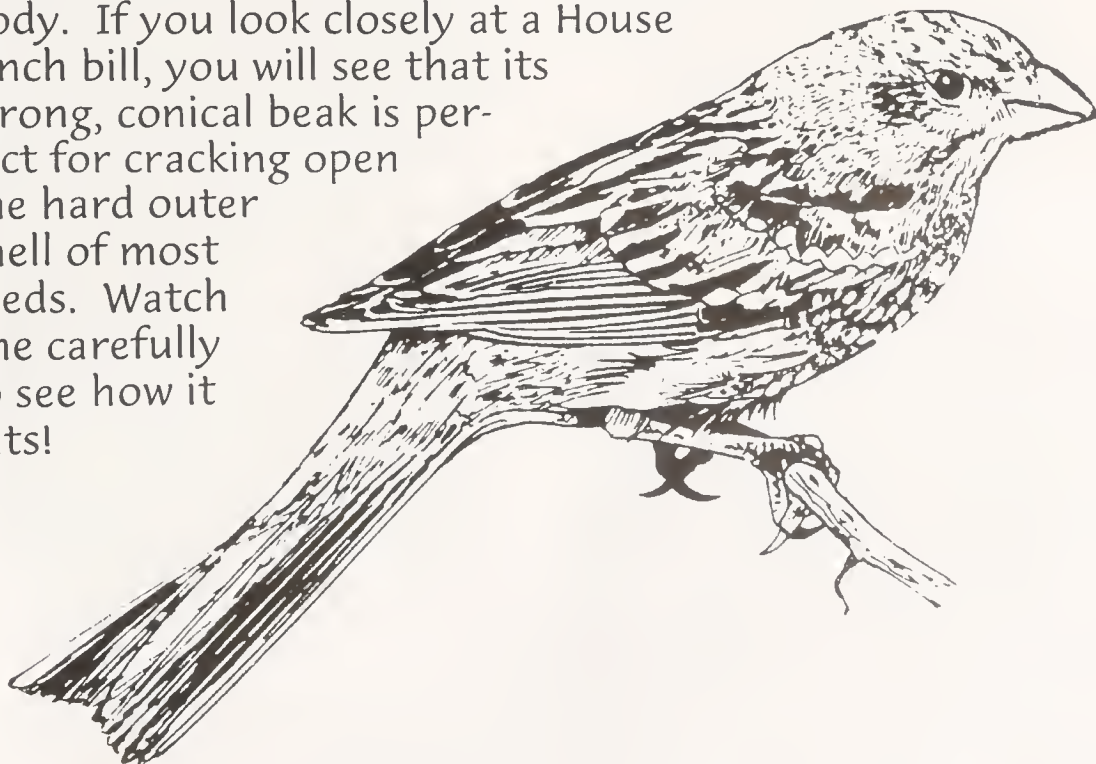
Do you have **question** about birds, or bird jokes you would like to share? How about pictures of birds you have drawn? Include your name and age and send submissions to:

If you are sending a picture, make sure it is no larger than 8 1/2 X 11 and is drawn in black ink against a white background.


The GULL Kid's Page
c/o Louise Harm
GGAS
2530 San Pablo Ave. Ste. G
Berkeley CA 94702

Feeder Watch

Look for House Finches at your feeder. These birds are often in our yards, while they sing a pretty melody from many of the trees and bushes nearby. The male House Finch is a streaked brown bird with a bright red throat and breast. He also has a red forehead and stripe above his eye. The female house finch looks almost the same, except she does not have any red on her body. If you look closely at a House Finch bill, you will see that its strong, conical beak is perfect for cracking open the hard outer shell of most seeds. Watch one carefully to see how it eats!



ASK A BIRD BRAIN

Why do different birds have different kinds of beaks? 

Different birds eat many different kinds of food. Some birds eat insects. Some birds drink nectar from flowers. Some birds eat small animals that live in the mud. Some birds catch fish. Each bird needs a beak shaped to help it eat what it needs. Birds that eat insects have slim tweezer-like beaks, perfect for catching speedy insects. Hummingbirds have long, skinny beaks that fit perfectly into flowers. Many shorebirds also have very long skinny beaks. They dig in the sand and mud, eating small animals that live there. Pelicans have a huge pouch in their beaks for catching fish. The next time you see a bird, look carefully at its beak. See if you can tell what it likes to eat.

What's in a Name?

By Harry Fuller

The Heermann's Gull is back on Bay Area beaches. In late spring it comes north from its breeding grounds to spend half the year in this northern portion of its range. We now know that this gull breeds on islands off the western coast of Mexico and moves north along with the Brown Pelicans. The pelican's fish-catching often pro-

Drummond Stewart, and his friend William Sublette, one of the first white men to explore Yellowstone 16 years earlier. The Stewart party left St. Louis at the same time a party led by James Audubon was heading up the Missouri River. Audubon declined the invitation to become part of Stewart's larger, wealthier expedition.

Some time after this expedition, Heermann was in Philadelphia where he became an M.D. and joined the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences. There he met John Cassin and Spencer Baird. Baird was already a key figure at the Smithsonian by then.

In 1848 Heermann and John Krider made a bird

collecting expedition to Florida. In 1849 he made his first trip to California via Panama and Mexico, where he collected some birds near Mazatlan. Though he based himself in Sacramento, he traveled the state.

Heermann found his gulls along the coast and discovered some breeding on the Coronados Islands 20 miles south of San Diego. He returned to Philadelphia in 1852 with a large collection of preserved mammals, bird skins and eggs from California. Cassin was over-

whelmed. Heermann's Gull was in that collection, along with the first Black-chinned Hummingbird found north of Mexico. That year Cassin wrote the first description of the new gull and named it after its discoverer.

In 1853 Heermann returned to California as part of the Pacific Railroad Surveys. He was in the group led by Lt. R. S. Williamson, who has his own namesake – the Williamson's Sapsucker (but that's another story). Heermann's reports of the birds of that expedition were published as part of the Pacific Railroad Reports, Vol. X, 1859. In the final years of his life Heermann spent his time mostly in Philadelphia and on his brother's ranch near San Antonio. His health failed badly, possibly due to venereal disease. An English ornithologist, Henry Dresser, visited Heermann during the Civil War and found the man looking far older than his actual age, but still building nest boxes to encourage wrens to nest around his cabin.

Dresser describes seeing Heermann in Texas in 1863, his "lameness increased quickly, during the latter part of my stay in Texas it was so bad he could scarcely walk far, and stumbled terribly."

One day in 1865, while holding his rifle, Heermann tripped, discharging the gun and killing him. For years he was forgotten until the ornithologist Witmer Stone dug up this story of the explorer who first gave us the handsome gull named after him.



PHOTO BY JOHN GIBBONS

duces a meal for the Heermann's Gull waiting to snatch the fish.

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*) is named after Dr. Adolphus Heermann (born in 1827), one of the first naturalists to deliberately come to California to investigate the local bird life. Heermann was the son of a U. S. Navy surgeon and made his first trip to the Rockies, along with his brother Theodore, in 1843. It is likely that Adolphus was still in his teens at that point. The Heermanns were part of a party led by the Scotch lord, Sir William

It's Happening, Thanks to GGAS

Continued from page one

land lover of the family, nesting and migrating over prairies in central North America.

On their breeding grounds, phalaropes are not as vocal as other sandpipers, making occasional nasal wheezes, grunts and quacks. Their piping call note, however, is piercing enough to be heard at sea over the noise of wind, waves and ships' engines.

Among phalaropes there is complete role reversal during courtship. The larger, more colorful females are the pursuers and fight for their mate with other females. Testing discovered that the females have as much testosterone as the males, which explains a lot. After breeding, the female lays her eggs in the nest the male has created. A slight hollow on the Arctic tundra, possibly under a tussock of grass with vegetation pulled atop like a canopy, serves as home, while the male incubates the eggs. Mom has already taken her leave, possibly to breed again. The male has even developed a large brood patch to keep the eggs toasty in the cold. Nineteen days later, the chicks hatch and can immediately swim; they can fly 18 days later. They have to grow up fast in the tundra so they can migrate sooner rather than later. The summer is short in the far north.

Once again, timing is everything - in birding as well as in life. (You can quote me!) Lucky me to pick a day the phalaropes were wheeling and dealing on Elkhorn Slough as a day to visit for the first time!

We'll also be creating about 16-30 acres of seasonal wetlands. The acreage amount will vary each year depending on the amount of rainfall, since seasonal wetlands depend on rainfall for their water supply. These seasonal wetlands will provide a home for shorebirds and waterfowl.

Finally, we'll also create burrowing owl habitat on the upland buffer that will surround the entire marsh complex.

In the midst of the tidal marsh segment will be several islands that will supply high-tide roosting (resting) habitat for shorebirds. This habitat type is one of the rarest in the Central Bay and may be a limiting factor for shorebird populations.

Throughout the planning process GGAS has been an active member. With the help of Steve Granholm, an environmental consultant and also a GGAS member, we have critiqued all planning efforts and have provided important suggestions that will, we hope, ensure success of the project.

We hope in the months to come to offer you, our members, an opportunity to get your feet wet and to help remove exotic wetland vegetation surrounding our new marsh. This exotic vege-

tation is much less hospitable to our shorebirds and the Clapper Rail than our native species, and it threatens to drive out our native vegetation. We also hope to hold wetland-planting sessions if the opportunity arises.

Stay tuned and come see our wetland in early 1998, by which time we hope the restoration work will be completed.

Of course, it won't look like much at first, but wait until the plants start growing and the birds start appearing—it will be grand, and it will be thanks to GGAS and you - our members.

Finally, we'd like to thank the Port of Oakland for taking so personal an interest in seeing that this project succeeds. They could well have been sore losers and given only a token effort towards this restoration project. Instead, they became very supportive partners. They have worked extremely hard on this project with a great will to make sure it succeeds. We thank Jim McGrath and Jody Zaitlin for their efforts on this project (along with many others). We also send thanks to their consultants Levine-Fricke who designed the project.

Of course, the work is not yet done, and only the test of time will prove how effective the wetland restoration will be. But there was good faith and efforts on the parts of all the parties involved, and we can hope for and expect only the best.

PHOTO BY ARTHUR FEINSTEIN



Don't Look Now But the Peripheral Canal is Back on the Drawing Board

by Arthur Feinstein

Many of you will remember the Peripheral Canal. Back in the 1980s this canal was proposed in order to increase water diversions from northern to southern California. The people of this state voted it down in one of our greatest environmental victories.

It's hard for most of us to remember that the incredible California water projects that move so much water from north to south were only created in the 1950s and '60s. Before then, the Sacramento River and its fisheries flourished.

Following the development of the State Water Project and the Central Valley Water Project and the corresponding increase in the diversion of northern California waters, fish populations in the Sacramento River and the Delta plummeted. Many of these fish species, e.g., four salmon species (once a multi-million dollar industry), the Delta Smelt and about ten other fish species are now listed as "threatened" or "endangered" and some are truly threatened with extinction.

Another impact of these diversions is the alteration of the freshwater marshes of Suisun Bay into salt marshes, leading to the possible disappearance of Suisun Bay's native species. And San Francisco Bay, too, has felt the impact. Spring flows once flushed out the South Bay and brought nutrient-rich water out to the

Farallones Islands.

While we usually think of this water as going to southern California swimming pools, the truth is that 85% of this water actually goes to agriculture.

Your Golden Gate Audubon Chapter, as the lead plaintiff, was joined by many other environmental groups in suing the State and federal agencies over these water diversions in the early 1990s. We were very successful, but before they could reach a conclusion, several of the environmental groups joined with the State and federal governments in signing the Bay/Delta Accord. This accord set temporary water diversion standards for three years, during which time a new process called the CALFED process was to find the final answer to California's water problems. CALFED means all the federal and state agencies involved in water issues are working together. GGAS did not sign the accord, for we believe it set insufficient standards and it also weakened the power of the Endangered Species Act on this issue.

The accord's three-year period ends this December. The CALFED process has been taking place and is about to issue a set of alternatives for the future of California's water. One of the alternatives will include a Peripheral Canal.

Another alternative will propose what is called a "through-Delta" facility which means cre-

ating bigger channels through the Delta so that the water can flow more quickly to the pumps that send it south. Some believe that the through-Delta facility is even worse than the Peripheral Canal.

Both of these alternatives will find the answer to water problems through restoring wetlands and riparian habitat and by creating new storage facilities (i.e. building offstream dams to flood valleys so that winter water can be saved until the dry summer season for pumping south). What these alternatives will not do, we believe, is provide the Delta and Suisun Bay and San Francisco Bay with the increased water, on a year-round basis, necessary to truly replicate historic conditions and that we believe are necessary to solve the water problems these habitats are facing.

The one alternative that won't be chosen is the one that requires agriculture to change its cropping practices so it uses less water and thus relieves all of the water tensions that California faces by freeing up more water for the Delta and Suisun Bay.

It's too early to write letters on this issue, but it's not too early for us to alert you that this issue is coming to a head and that when the time comes, your letters will be urgently needed. **Still, there is something you can do right now.**

Environmentalists have been

negotiating with representatives of California Urban Water Agencies to upgrade the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for urban water conservation in California. These upgraded BMPs, along with a program for certification and enforcement of water conservation commitments, must be a key component in any solution to our water problems and particularly to the CALFED Bay/Delta program. If we don't conserve water, we'll never solve our water problems.

Recently, however, our urban water agencies have been wavering in their support for these efforts and have specifically refused to support several best management practices that we believe are among the most important. These include conservation pricing, which reduces water bills for those who conserve, and rebates for efficient/horizontal axis washing machines, which have been proven to save large amounts of water and energy.

Letters and phone calls are needed to the general manager

of your water agency. Urge the agency to: 1) Support more aggressive water conservation efforts. 2) Vote in favor of the strengthened BMP package, as well as in favor of a certification and enforcement program to ensure that these programs are implemented. 3) Ensure that the BMP package includes rebate programs for efficient washing machines, regardless of whether a local energy utility is running such a program. 4) Include a best management practice for conservation pricing, including a meaningful performance standard. 5) Take a proactive role in assuring that these changes are adopted on a statewide level, even if your agency already offers these programs, because statewide water conservation efforts will be key to protecting California's rivers and wildlife and to assuring a reliable water supply.

Join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and the beginning of our campaign to save California's water.

Gifts and Bequests

James Avila, Richard Bachenheimer, Ruth Doty, William Fleming, Mr. H. A. Monteau, Camille Mulligan & Karl Hans, Dawn Painter, Aileen Pierson, Siobhan Ruck

Birdathon:

Stefanie Arthur

Birdbox:

Roger Harshaw & Barbra Leigh

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use of general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2550 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

Letters should be sent to one of the below, depending on where you live.

Walter Bishop
Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Ave.
PO Box H20
CA Concord, CA 94524

Dennis Diemer
East Bay MUD
375 Eleventh St.
Oakland, CA 94607

Andrew Moran
San Francisco PUC
425 Mason Street
San Francisco, 94102



October Meeting

Jail-Birds & Quail-Birds

From the Western Gulls on Alcatraz to the California Quail in the scrubby hills, birds are the focus of most wildlife monitoring within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

Our next member meeting will focus on the GGNRA's management and monitoring of birds, highlighted by a slide presentation and talk by Daphne Hatch, a wildlife biologist. Enveloping many types of habitats, the GGNRA deals with varied species including riparian and upland landbirds, Snowy Plovers and

Thursday, October 16

7:30 p.m.

The Josephine Randall Museum
San Francisco

other shorebirds on Ocean Beach, and Spotted Owls in Marin County. The presentation will describe the park's bird monitoring programs, including volunteer opportunities, significant findings, and actions taken by the park to protect native birds within the GGNRA.



Observations

A summary of sightings over the last month include the first effects of the predicted El Nino year. Towards the month's end, with sea temperatures well above normal, many of our cold water species were moving north. Warm-water stragglers were moving into our area, with Magnificent Frigatebirds in Marin and two in Monterey, **Masked Booby**, **Tropicbird Sp.** also reported in Monterey, and above-normal numbers of Xantus and Craveri's Murrelets offshore. Other highlights during the month included **Dark-rumped Petrel** and **Parakeet Auklets** at the Cordell Banks and **Manx Shearwaters** on Monterey Bay. Shorebird highlights included the **Curlew Sandpiper** in Santa Clara, **Bar-tailed Godwit** in San Mateo and Ruff in Mendocino and Santa Clara counties.

Passerine species recorded in the month included Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Mendocino and Scott's Oriole in Sonoma County. The first straggler warbler species included Bay-breasted Warbler on Southeast Farallones, Lucy's Warbler in Sonoma and Virginia's Warbler in Monterey.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702

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Northern California Bird Box:
(415) 681-7422

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